



117 West 8th Street, Rochester, Indiana 46975

March 7, 2014

**Letter – Expression of Interest  
VIA ECFS**

Chairman Thomas Wheeler  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly  
Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW 20024  
Washington, DC

**Re: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Trials  
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers,

This letter is to express that RTC Communications Corp has interest in receiving funding from the Rural Broadband Trials announced at the January 30<sup>th</sup> FCC Open Meeting.

**Background**

Rochester Telephone Company was chartered in 1895 and has been serving the Fulton County, Indiana community for almost 120 years. We truly understand the needs of the Fulton County area. Our ILEC has been delivering and maintaining data, voice and video services over our all fiber network for more than 10 years.

AirWave2Connect is our fixed wireless brand by which we deliver broadband internet to more than 500 customers that are currently outside our exchange and fiber network. We are also a partner in S&R Communications which is bringing 4G/LTE service to an adjacent 5 county (including Fulton county) area through the LRA program.

We plan to continue to do our part to provide advanced broadband and communication services to our area for another century. We continue to leverage and expand our fiber network, investing heavily in leading edge technology to pave the way into the future.

Over 30 employees with 6 full time IT professionals are dedicated to serve our customers. We welcome the opportunity for Rochester Schools to join the many other anchor institutions and businesses that RTC currently serves.



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### **Geographic Territory**

The plan of RTC Communication Corp is to provide High Speed Internet and Phone service into the underserved areas below, in whole or in part as required.

*Fulton County, Indiana Census block # 9532*

*Fulton County, Indiana Census block # 9533*

*Fulton County, Indiana Census block # 9534*

*Miami County, Indiana Census block # 9520*

*Cass County, Indiana Census block # 9509*

*Kosciusko County, Indiana Census block # 9624*

*Kosciusko County, Indiana Census block # 9625*

*Kosciusko County, Indiana Census block # 9627*

*Wabash County, Indiana Census block # 1023*

*Wabash County, Indiana Census block # 1024*

### **List of Anchor Institutions**

#### **Indiana**

- Fulton - Fulton Branch Library, Fulton Medical Clinic, Caston School Corporation, Fulton Community Center, Population 315
- Kewanna - Kewanna-Union Library, Winamac Coil Springs (approx 200 employees), Population 596
- Denver - North Miami Community Schools, Miami County Highway Garage, Roann Paw-paw Township Public Library, Population 495

### **Proposed technology**

We propose to extend our FTTH, Fiber Transport and/or Fixed Wireless networks or best combination to provide a "no data cap" minimum 4Mbps x 1Mbps connection to remote end users. A gigabit fiber and/or 100Mbps microwave network backbone would be provided to schools, hospitals and anchor institutions. Depending on the level of CAF assistance, we will deliver (per) our existing price structure.

### **State and/or Local or Tribal Government Participation in and/or Support for Project**

Schools listed have expressed interest in higher broadband Internet speeds as their current providers' infrastructure will not support higher bandwidth demands. We will work with and offer all anchor institutions at least 100M service.

We are familiar with obtaining right of ways and permits, having laid more than 250 miles of buried fiber.

### **Existing Providers**

The target areas are capacity underserved. Frontier has limited low speed DSL and Fourway.net advertises 5M x 512k fixed wireless. Neither provider has universal coverage or guaranteed speeds.



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**Project Timeline**

We are ready to build the anchor institution backbone transport to the three targeted population areas this year, 2014.

**Scalability**

We propose a fiber transport backbone to each area to be completed in 2014. Build out from the backbone will be a hybrid fiber and high speed fixed wireless with capacity up to 25M x 5M (minimum 4x1). The fixed wireless component would be built simultaneously, but as required or requested by consumer demand. (We don't want to build a network blanket to cover nothing)

**Total Business Investment**

Budget \$600,000 for the fiber backbone and anchor institutions listed.

**Investment Needed**

Dependent on % of one-time capital reimbursed.

**Total Project Cost**

\$600,000 estimate

Thank you for considering our Expression of Interest in your decisions about the amount of funding that will be allocated in the Rural Broadband Trials. We commend you in this effort to connect rural communities and are ready to help you close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe McCarter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe McCarter  
President  
Rochester Communications Corp